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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

AG Moody Recognizes National Domestic Violence Awareness Month



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is recognizing October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month by releasing information and resources for victims. Domestic violence affects thousands of Floridians every year, regardless of gender, race, religion, culture and status. The State of Florida, local governments and nonprofit organizations offers free resources for victims of domestic violence to use to help them escape their circumstances and bring justice against their abusers.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Many times, those in abusive relationships do not seek the help they need because they fear for their or their children’s lives, or they feel like their situation is hopeless. The power their abuser has over them is immense, and because of that many more may believe that because their partner isn’t hitting them, they aren’t being abusive—yet their partner yells, humiliates, stalks, manipulates and isolates them. I want to ensure the public is aware there are resources available and encourage anyone who feels they are not safe to seek assistance.”

Attorney General Moody’s Division of Victims’ Services administers compensation funds to victims of crime and to organizations like domestic violence shelters that provide assistance to help victims of domestic abuse.

To learn more about the Attorney General’s Division of Victims’ Services, click here.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners or former partners to establish power and control. It may include physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuse, as well as threats, isolation, pet abuse, using children to manipulate and other behaviors used to maintain fear, intimidation and power over one’s partner. Domestic violence crosses every race, age, religious and socio-economic background.

Last year, more than 100,000 cases of domestic violence were reported to Florida law enforcement agencies resulting in more than 64,000 arrests. Many more survivors of domestic violence are not reporting their abusers to police or accessing services due to shame, fear or being prevented from doing so by their perpetrators.

More than 3.1 million dollars were given to victims of domestic violence in 2017-2018, in the form of Domestic Violence Relocation Assistance through the Crime Victims Compensation Trust Fund which is administered by the Attorney General's Office.

For immediate assistance, call 911. The Florida Domestic Violence Hotline is also available for use at 1(800) 500-1119.

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence website, FCADV.org, is an invaluable resource. It contains information and tips on remaining safe and making escape plans, and has a map of all certified domestic violence centers in Florida.

To access the Florida Department of Children and Families' domestic violence resources, including tips for bystanders to help victims in need, batterer intervention information and other information, click here.